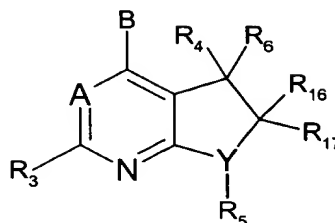


CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula



II

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is  $-CR_7$  or N;

B is  $-NR_1R_2$ ,  $-CR_1R_2R_{11}$ ,  $-C(=CR_2R_{12})R_1$ ,  $-NHCHR_1R_2$ ,  $-OCHR_1R_2$ ,  $-SCHR_1R_2$ ,  $-CHR_2OR_1$ ,  $-CHR_1OR_2$ ,  $-CHR_2SR_1$ ,  $-C(S)R_2$ ,  $-C(O)R_2$ ,  $-CHR_2NR_1R_2$ ,  $-CHR_1NHR_2$ ,  $-CHR_1N(CH_3)R_2$ , or  $-NR_{12}NR_1R_2$ ;

Y is CH or N;

Z is NH, O, S,  $-N(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-NC(O)CF_3$ , or  $-C(R_{13}R_{14})$ , wherein  $R_{13}$  and  $R_{14}$  are each, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or methyl, or one of  $R_{13}$  and  $R_{14}$  is cyano and the other is hydrogen or methyl, or  $-C(R_{13}R_{14})$  is a cyclopropyl group, or Z is nitrogen or CH and forms a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused with  $R_5$ , which ring optionally comprises two or three further hetero members selected independently from oxygen, nitrogen,  $NR_{12}$ , and  $S(O)_m$ , and optionally comprises from one to three double bonds, and is optionally substituted with halo,  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl,  $-O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHCH_3$ ,  $N(CH_3)_2$ ,  $CF_3$ , or  $OCF_3$ , with the proviso that said ring does not contain any  $-S-S-$ ,  $-S-O-$ ,  $-N-S-$ , or  $-O-O-$  bonds, and does not comprise more than two oxygen or  $S(O)_m$  heterologous members;

$R_1$  is  $C(O)H$ ,  $C(O)(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $C(O)(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl})$ ,  $C(O)(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkylene})(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl})$ ,  $C(O)(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})(C_4-C_8 \text{ heterocycloalkyl})$ ,  $-C(O)(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkylene})(C_4-C_8 \text{ heterocycloalkyl})$ ,  $C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}$ ,  $C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl}$ ,  $C_4-C_8 \text{ heterocycloalkyl}$ ,  $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl})$ ,  $-(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkylene})(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl})$ ,  $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})(C_4-C_8 \text{ heterocycloalkyl})$ ,  $-(C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkylene})(C_4-C_8 \text{ heterocycloalkyl})$ , or  $-O\text{-aryl}$ , or  $-O-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})\text{-aryl}$ ; wherein said aryl,  $C_4-C_8 \text{ heterocycloalkyl}$ ,  $C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl}$ ,  $C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl}$ ,  $C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkylene}$ , and  $C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene}$  groups may each independently be optionally substituted with from one to six fluoro and may each independently be optionally substituted with one or two substituents  $R_8$  independently selected from the group consisting of  $C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl}$ ,  $-C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl}$ , hydroxy, chloro, bromo, iodo,  $CF_3$ ,  $-O-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-O-(C_3-C_5 \text{ cycloalkyl})$ ,  $-O-CO-(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-O-CO-NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-O-CO-N(R_{24})(R_{25})$ ,  $-N(R_{24})(R_{25})$ ,  $-S(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-S(C_3-C_5 \text{ cycloalkyl})$ ,

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-N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, -OSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), S<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)I<sup>-</sup>, -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl); and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene, and C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl moieties of R<sub>1</sub> may optionally  
 5 independently contain from one to three double or triple bonds; and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl moieties and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl moieties of R<sub>8</sub> can optionally independently be substituted with hydroxy, amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, aryl, -CH<sub>2</sub>-aryl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl, or -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), and can optionally independently be substituted with from one to six fluoro, and can optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds; and wherein each heterocycloalkyl group of R<sub>1</sub> contains from one to three  
 10 heteromoiety selected from oxygen, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, nitrogen, and NR<sub>12</sub>;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), aryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)aryl, or -  
 15 (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(aryl); wherein each of the foregoing R<sub>2</sub> groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, wherein one of said one to three substituents can further be selected from bromo, iodo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -OH, -O-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -S(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -S(O)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), S<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)I<sup>-</sup>, CN, and NO<sub>2</sub>; and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene), -(C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene), and -(C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl) moieties of R<sub>2</sub> may optionally independently contain from one to three double or  
 20 triple bonds; and wherein each heterocycloalkyl group of R<sub>2</sub> contains from one to three heteromoiety selected from oxygen, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, nitrogen, and NR<sub>12</sub>;

or when R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as in -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -OCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -SCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub> or -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> of B may form a saturated 5- to 8-membered ring which may optionally contain one or  
 25 two double bonds and in which one or two of the ring carbons may optionally be replaced by an oxygen, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, nitrogen or NR<sub>12</sub>, and which carbocyclic ring can optionally be substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, CF<sub>3</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, -OSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), wherein one of said one to three substituents can further be selected from phenyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, methoxy, OCF<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -NHCOCF<sub>3</sub>, -NHCH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, S(O)<sub>m</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHCH<sub>3</sub>, CON(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -  
 35 CF<sub>3</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -OR<sub>24</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-

C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>SC(S)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, amino, nitro, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-OR<sub>24</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)Cl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NHCOR<sub>24</sub>, -NHCONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -C=NOR<sub>24</sub>, -NHNOR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>24</sub>, -C(O)R<sub>24</sub>, -CC(O)R<sub>24</sub>, -C(O)CN, -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -C(O)NHNOR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, and -COOR<sub>24</sub>,

5 wherein the alkyl and alkylene groups of R<sub>4</sub> may optionally independently contain one or two double or triple bonds and may optionally independently be substituted with one or two substituents R<sub>10</sub> independently selected from hydroxy, amino, -NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>Cl, -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> thioalkyl, cyano and nitro, and with one to four substituents independently selected  
10 from fluoro and chloro;

R<sub>5</sub> is aryl or heteroaryl and is substituted with from one to four substituents R<sub>27</sub> independently selected from halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkoxy, nitro, cyano, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>COR<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -COR<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -CONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -CO(NOR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>23</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -C=N(OR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>23</sub>, and -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>23</sub>; wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene), (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene), and (C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl) groups can be optionally substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, nitro, halo, cyano, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>COR<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -COR<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -CONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -CO(NOR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>25</sub>, and -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>23</sub>; and wherein two adjacent substituents of the R<sub>5</sub> group can optionally form a 5-7 membered ring, saturated or unsaturated, fused to R<sup>5</sup>, which ring optionally can contain one, two, or three heterologous members independently selected from O, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, and N, but not any -S-S-, -O-O-, -S-O-, or -N-S- bonds, and which ring is optionally substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, nitro, halo, cyano, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>COR<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -COR<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -CONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -CO(NOR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>25</sub>, or -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>23</sub>; wherein one of said one to four optional substituents R<sub>27</sub> can further be selected from -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), and -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl); and wherein the alkyl, and alkylene groups of R<sub>5</sub> may independently optionally contain one double or triple bond;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), or -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), wherein said alkyl and cycloalkyl may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy or fluoro group;

or R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> can together form an oxo (=O) group, or can be connected to form a 3-8 membered carbocyclic ring, optionally containing one to three double bonds, and optionally containing one, two, or three heterologous ring members selected from O, SO<sub>m</sub>, N, and NR<sub>12</sub>, but not containing any -O-O-, -S-O-, -S-S-, or -N-S- bonds, and further optionally substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituent may optionally contain one double or triple bond;

R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, hydroxy, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -O(cyclopropyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -OCF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, or CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, fluoro, ethoxy, or methoxy;

R<sub>12</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are each, independently, hydrogen, hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, or ethoxy, except that R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are not both methoxy or ethoxy;

or R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> together form an oxo (=O) group;

or R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are connected to form a 3-8 membered carbocyclic ring, optionally containing one to three double bonds, and optionally containing from one to three heterologous ring members selected from O, SO<sub>m</sub>, N, and NR<sub>12</sub>, but not containing any -O-O-, -S-O-, -S-S-, or -N-S- bonds, and further optionally substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituent may optionally contain one double or triple bond;

R<sub>22</sub> is independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl);

R<sub>23</sub> is independently at each occurrence selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), aryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)aryl, piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine, and thiomorpholine;

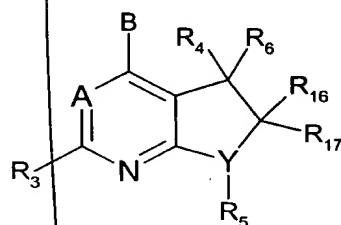
R<sub>24</sub> and R<sub>25</sub> are independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen, -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, especially CF<sub>3</sub>, -CHF<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)OH, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), aryl, and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(aryl), wherein the -C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl groups can each independently optionally be substituted with aryl, CH<sub>2</sub>-aryl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, and can optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds; or, when R<sub>24</sub> and R<sub>25</sub> are as NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, or -NHCONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, then NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub> may further optionally form a 4 to 8 membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two further hetero members independently selected from S(O)<sub>m</sub>, oxygen, nitrogen, and NR<sub>12</sub>, and optionally containing from one to three double bonds;

R<sub>26</sub> is independently at each occurrence selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), aryl, and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(aryl); and

wherein each m is independently zero, one, or two,

with the proviso that heterocycloalkyl groups of the compound of formula I, II, or III do not comprise any -S-S-, -S-O-, -N-S-, or -O-O- bonds, and do not comprise more than two oxygen or S(O)<sub>m</sub> heterologous members.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of the formula



II, wherein

A is -CR<sub>7</sub> or N;

B is -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, -C(=CR<sub>2</sub>R<sub>12</sub>)R<sub>1</sub>, -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -OCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -SCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>12</sub>, -CHR<sub>2</sub>SR<sub>12</sub>, -C(S)R<sub>2</sub> or -C(O)R<sub>2</sub>;

Y is -CH or N;

Z is NH, O, S, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl) or -C(R<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>), wherein R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are each, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or methyl, or one of R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> is cyano and the other is hydrogen or methyl;

R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl which may optionally be substituted with one or two substituents R<sub>8</sub> independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, -O-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), and wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl and the (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl moieties in the foregoing R<sub>1</sub> groups may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond;

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, aryl or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)aryl wherein said aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, or benzoxazolyl; 3- to 8-membered cycloalkyl or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)cycloalkyl, wherein one or two of the ring carbons of said cycloalkyl having at least 4 ring members and the cycloalkyl moiety of said -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)cycloalkyl having at least 4 ring members may optionally be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by N-R<sub>9</sub> wherein R<sub>9</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and wherein each of the

foregoing  $R_2$  groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro and  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $-O-CO-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-O-CO-N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-S(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ , CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $-SO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ , and  $-SO_2(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ , and wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$  alkyl and the

5  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkylene moiety of said  $-(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkylene})\text{aryl}$  may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond;

or  $-NR_1R_2$  or  $-CR_1R_2R_{11}$  may form a saturated 5- to 8-membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain one or two carbon-carbon double bonds and in which one or two of the ring carbons may optionally be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom;

10  $R_3$  is methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, methoxy,  $OCF_3$ , methylthio, methylsulfonyl,  $CH_2OH$ , or  $CH_2OCH_3$ ;

$R_4$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy,  $-CH_2OCH_3$ ,  $-CH_2OCH_2CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2OCH_3$ ,  $-CH_2OF_3$ ,  $CF_3$ , amino, nitro,  $-NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-N(CH_3)_2$ ,  $-NHCOCH_3$ ,  $-NHCONHCH_3$ ,  $-SO_n(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$  wherein  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2, cyano, hydroxy,

15  $-CO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-CHO$ , cyano or  $-COO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$  wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl may optionally contain one double or triple bond and may optionally be substituted with one substituent selected from hydroxy, amino,  $-NHCOCH_3$ ,  $-NH(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-N(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})_2$ ,  $-COO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-CO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_3$  thioalkyl, fluoro, chloro, cyano and nitro;

$R_5$  is phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, furanyl,

20 benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, or indolyl, wherein each of the above groups  $R_5$  is substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from fluoro, chloro,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, or with one substituent selected from hydroxy, iodo, bromo, formyl, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino,  $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})O(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-NHCH_3$ ,  $-N(CH_3)_2$ ,  $-COOH$ ,  $-COO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-CO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-SO_2N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-SO_2NH_2$ ,  $-NHSO_2(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-S(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$  and  $-SO_2(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ , and wherein the  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl moieties

25 of the foregoing  $R_5$  groups may optionally be substituted with one or two fluoro groups or with one substituent selected from hydroxy, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino and acetyl;

$R_6$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, wherein said  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy or fluoro group;

30  $R_7$  is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, hydroxy,  $-O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-C(O)(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-C(O)O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-OCF_3$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $-CH_2OH$ ,  $-CH_2OCH_3$  or  $-CH_2OCH_2CH_3$ ;

$R_{11}$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, fluoro, or methoxy;

$R_{12}$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl; and

$R_{16}$  and  $R_{17}$  are each, independently, hydrogen, hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, or

35 ethoxy, except that  $R_{16}$  and  $R_{17}$  are not both methoxy or ethoxy;

or  $R_{16}$  and  $R_{17}$  together form an oxo ( $=O$ ) group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such compound.

3. A compound according to claim 2 wherein B is  $-NR_1R_2$ ,  $-NHCHR_1R_2$ ,  $-SCHR_1R_2$  or  $-OCHR_1R_2$ ;  $R_1$  is  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, which may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, fluoro,  $CF_3$ , or  $C_1-C_2$  alkoxy group and may optionally contain one double or triple bond; and  $R_2$  is benzyl or  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl which may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond, wherein said  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl or the phenyl moiety of said benzyl may optionally be substituted with fluoro,  $CF_3$ ,  $C_1-C_2$  alkyl, or  $C_1-C_2$  alkoxy.

4. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl which may be substituted by fluoro,  $CF_3$ , hydroxy,  $C_1-C_2$  alkyl or  $C_1-C_2$  alkoxy and which may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond.

5. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_2$  is  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl which may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro,  $CF_3$ ,  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl or  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy.

6. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_3$  is methyl, chloro, or methoxy.

7. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_4$  is methyl,  $-CH_2OH$ , cyano, trifluoromethoxy, methoxy, chloro, trifluoromethyl,  $-COOCH_3$ ,  $-CH_2OCH_3$ ,  $-CH_2Cl$ ,  $-CH_2F$ , ethyl, amino or nitro.

8. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_5$  is phenyl substituted with two or three substituents.

9. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_6$  is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

10. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R_5$  is pyridyl substituted with two or three substituents.

11. A compound according to claim 8 wherein said substituents are selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo,  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl which may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy,  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy or fluoro group and which may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond,  $-(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkylene})O(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $C_1-C_3$  hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, formyl,  $COO(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkylene})\text{amino}$ , and  $-(C(O))(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ .

12. A compound according to claim 10 wherein said substituents are selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo,  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl which may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy,  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy or fluoro group and which may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond,  $-(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkylene})O(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $C_1-C_3$  hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, formyl,  $-COO(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkylene})\text{amino}$ , and  $-(C(O))(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ .

13. A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is

N-butyl-[2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl]-ethyl-amino; or

4-(butyl-ethylamino)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-5,7-dihydro-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-6-one;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of one of the above compounds.

14. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of (a) a disorder or condition the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder or condition selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias, including social phobia, agoraphobia, and specific phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, mood disorders associated with premenstrual syndrome, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; chronic fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; post operative ileus; ulcer; diarrhea; stress-induced fever; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies or addictions, including dependencies or addictions to alcohol, cocaine, heroin, benzodiazapines, or other drugs; drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone; obesity; infertility; head trauma; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage, including cerebral ischemia, for example cerebral hippocampal ischemia; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions, including porcine stress syndrome, bovine shipping fever, equine paroxysmal fibrillation, confinement dysfunction in chicken, sheering stress in sheep, and human-animal interaction stress in dogs; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; osteoporosis; premature birth; hypoglycemia, and Syndrome X in a mammal or bird, comprising an amount of a compound according to claim 1 that is effective in the treatment of such disorder or condition, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 for the treatment of a disorder selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating



Sub B2)  
disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies and addictions; obesity; infertility; head traumas; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; and hypoglycemia in a mammal, including a human.

16. A method for the treatment of (a) a disorder or condition the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder or condition selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias, including social phobia, agoraphobia, and specific phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, mood disorders associated with premenstrual syndrome, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; chronic fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; post operative ileus; ulcer; diarrhea; stress-induced fever; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies or addictions, including dependencies or addictions to alcohol, cocaine, heroin, benzodiazapines, or other drugs; drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone; obesity; infertility; head trauma; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage, including cerebral ischemia, for example cerebral hippocampal ischemia; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions, including porcine stress syndrome, bovine shipping fever, equine paroxysmal fibrillation, confinement dysfunction in chicken, sheering stress in sheep, and human-animal interaction stress in dogs; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; osteoporosis; premature birth; hypoglycemia, and Syndrome X in a mammal or bird, comprising administering to a subject in need of said treatment an amount of a compound according to claim 1, that is effective in treating such disorder or condition.

17. A method according to claim 16 for the treatment of a disorder selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as

fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies and addictions; drug and alcohol withdrawal symptoms; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone (ADH); obesity; infertility; head traumas; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; and hypoglycemia in a mammal, including a human.

18. A method of treating a condition comprising administering a compound of claim 1 in an amount effective to treat said condition, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) abnormal circadian rhythm;
- b) depression, further wherein a second compound for treating depression is administered, said second compound for treating depression having an onset of action that is delayed with respect to that of said CRF antagonist; and
- c) emesis.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the condition is abnormal circadian rhythm, and the compound is combined with a second compound useful for treating a sleep disorder.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, agonists for GABA brain receptors, metalonergic compounds, GABA brain receptor agonists, 5HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists, and D4 receptor binding.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein said condition is depression, and wherein said second compound having delayed action for treating depression is selected from the group consisting of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, norepinephrine uptake inhibitors, lithium, bupropion, sertraline, fluoxetine, trazodone, and a tricyclic antidepressant selected from the group consisting of imipramine, amitriptyline, trimipramine, doxepin, desipramine, nortriptyline, protriptyline, amoxapine, clomipramine, maprotiline, and carbamazepine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters of the above-recited compounds.

22. The method claim 18 wherein said condition is emesis, further comprising administering a second compound for treating emesis.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said second compound for treating emesis is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, 5HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists, GABA agonists, and substance P inhibitors.

24. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a condition comprising a compound of claim 1 in an amount effective to treat said condition and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of:

a) abnormal circadian rhythm;

b) depression, further wherein a second compound for treating depression is administered, said second compound for treating depression having an onset of action that is delayed with respect to that of said CRF antagonist; and

c) emesis.

25. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24, wherein the condition is abnormal circadian rhythm, and the compound is combined with a second compound useful for treating a sleep disorder.

26. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25, wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, agonists for GABA brain receptors, metabotropic compounds, GABA brain receptor agonists, 5HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists, and D<sub>4</sub> receptor binding.

27. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24 wherein said condition is depression, and wherein said second compound having delayed action for treating depression is selected from the group consisting of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, norepinephrine uptake inhibitors, lithium, bupropion, sertraline, fluoxetine, trazodone, and a tricyclic antidepressant selected from the group consisting of imipramine, amitriptyline, trimipramine, doxepin, desipramine, nortriptyline, protriptyline, amoxapine, clomipramine, maprotiline, and carbamazepine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters of the above-recited compounds.

28. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24 wherein said condition is emesis, further comprising administering a second compound for treating emesis.

29. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28 wherein said second compound for treating emesis is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, 5HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists, GABA agonists, and substance P inhibitors.